

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1075
By Ferguson

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Mary Ann Stewart
upon being selected to the Tennessee Teachers
Hall of Fame.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to specially recognize those outstanding teachers who have devoted their careers to providing the highest quality education for Tennessee's students; and

WHEREAS, Mary Ann Stewart is one such estimable educator who has distinguished herself as a professional of the greatest dedication, ability, and integrity; and

WHEREAS, Mary Ann Stewart was recently inducted into the Tennessee Teachers Hall of Fame, an honor most befitting her outstanding tenure as a teacher, as it recognizes the positive and enriching influence she has had on so many young lives; and

WHEREAS, Mary Ann Stewart has joined the ranks of numerous educators who have been previously inducted into the circle of honor of the Tennessee Teachers Hall of Fame, which is co-sponsored each year by Middle Tennessee State University and overseen by a Board of Governors that represents major educational organizations statewide; and

WHEREAS, wholly deserving of this honor, Mrs. Stewart has served with acumen and alacrity as an English teacher, a speech teacher, a Federal Projects Director, and a Curriculum Specialist during her thirty-eight-year career; and

WHEREAS, Mary Ann Stewart attended the University of Tennessee at Knoxville and graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in 1968, and a Master of Science degree in 1973; she also attended Tennessee Technological University, where she received an Education Specialist degree in 1991; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Stewart began her education career at Fulton High School, where she taught speech and English from 1968-1971; and

WHEREAS, in 1971, she started working at Lenoir City High School, where she taught English composition and drama courses until 2002; and

WHEREAS, since 2002, Mary Ann Stewart has served as Federal Projects Director and Curriculum Specialist for Lenoir City Schools; she also worked as an adjunct professor at Roane State Community College in 1990 and 1991; and

WHEREAS, a warm and gentle teacher, Mary Ann Stewart has earned the admiration and respect of her students and taught them how to respect one another and themselves, and she maintains high standards of classroom conduct, educational achievements, and leadership; and

WHEREAS, she is an extremely talented and compassionate educator who has worked assiduously during her career to motivate her students to reach their full potential, both as students and as citizens; and

WHEREAS, as a highly responsive teacher with an acute awareness of each individual student's needs, Mary Ann Stewart always encourages students to believe in themselves and their individual talents; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Stewart has truly served as an inspiration to the educational community of Tennessee, and her friendship and counsel are highly valued by those who are fortunate to know her; and

WHEREAS, donating her talents and expertise to numerous professional organizations, Mrs. Stewart has served as President of the East Tennessee Association of Teachers of English, President of the Lenoir City Association of Educators, Executive Board Member of the Tennessee Council of Teachers of English, a member of the Language Arts Advisory Board of the Tennessee Department of Education, Program Co-Chairperson of the Loudon County Education Foundation, a member of the Board of Directors of the Loudon County Education Foundation, a member of the National Council of Teachers of English, a member of the Framework Committee of Language Arts for the Tennessee Department of Education, and a member of the Board of Directors for the Family Resource Center of Lenoir City Schools; and

WHEREAS, she also worked with the Governor's Writing Academy in 1986, and the Smoky Mountain Writing Project in 1988; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to honors and accolades, Mrs. Stewart was named the 1998 Teacher of the Year by the Loudon County Education Foundation, the Exemplary Educator of the Little Tennessee Valley Educational Cooperative, the Tennessee Power of the Purse Honoree for Outstanding Philanthropic Contribution to Tennessee in 2003, the East Tennessee Association of Teachers of English Teacher of the Year, and the Tennessee Council of Teachers of English Teacher of Excellence; she was also recognized in 1993 for Outstanding Teaching in the Humanities by the Tennessee Humanities Council; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Stewart has received numerous grants and fellowships, including the Mellon Fellowship from Lawrence University in 1987, the Creative Writing Grant for the Tennessee Department of Education in 1988, and the Mellon Fellowship from Berea College in 1992; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Stewart is a highly respected citizen of the Lenoir City community, and she has devoted countless hours of volunteer work as a member of the Education Advisory Board for the Tennessee Performing Arts Center and a member of the Advisory Committee for Humanities Outreach in Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, an erudite and recognized authority in English education, Mrs. Stewart has written many articles for the *Tennessee English Journal* including, "Governor's Academy for Teachers of Writing," "The Use of Oral Communication Skills in British Literature," "Act the Part: A Dramatic Monologue Activity," "Collaborative Learning Is Not My Style: An Old Dog Tries New Tricks," "It's HOT in Tennessee," "The Ballad: Music to Your Ears," "Dreaming Through Time: A Humanities Course," and "Romanticism: Poetry, Painting, and Music"; she also wrote an article for *Extra Credit* named "Anglo-Saxon Riddles: Poetry and Art Combined"; and

WHEREAS, her many professional and civic accomplishments aside, Mary Ann Stewart is most thankful for the love she shares with her family; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Stewart truly epitomizes the ideal of the dedicated teacher who is wholly committed to the highest ideals of public service and quality education for all, and her life of service should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE

CONCURRING, that we honor and commend Mrs. Mary Ann Stewart, a woman of great inspiration, integrity, leadership, and compassion, upon being selected to the Tennessee Teachers Hall of Fame, reflecting fondly upon her exceptional service to the children of Tennessee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.